As per media reports, Jamait ul Mujhaheedin (JuM) claimed their hand in the incident. However, preliminary investigations did not reveal any sabotage.

A Court of Inquiry has been ordered into the accident and is in progress.

Financial assistance to private power distribution companies

*39. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
DR.T. SUB3ARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether private power distribution companies have got fresh financial assistance from the Centre to implement their upgradation plans and develop infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether in the month of September, 2002, companies got their first instalment of Rs.400 crore as aid from the Centre;

(c) if so, what is the total aid that has been provided to the private power distribution companies by the Centre so far; and

(d) to what extent these companies have utilised these funds to improve the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (d) No financial assistance has been released by the Government of India to the private power distribution companies for implementing the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP). However, under the APDRP programme, some of the States such as Gujarat and the National CapitalTerritory of Delhi have engaged the private sector utilities in implementing the schemes in their respective distribution areas. Government of India provides 50% of the project assistance to the states, in the non-special category, in the form of additional Central Plan Assistance which has components of grant and loan in equal ratio. The remaining 50% of the project cost is to be arranged by the utilities undertaking the schemes under APDRP. For availing of assistance in such cases, the States have to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Central Government on the one hand and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the concerned private sector utilities on the other. The State Governments have yet to enter into an MOU with the Central Government for this purpose and thus no amount has been so far released by the Government of India.